

MACEDONIA – Advice from Fulbright Alumni

The following are extracts from Fulbright Grantee Reports and are not meant to reflect the views of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA), its cooperating agencies, or the U.S. Embassy.

Topics covered below include:

- Cultural and Historical notes
- Personal Interactions and Language
- University Life and Academics
- Business Practices and Networking
- Social Life
- Dress
- Housing
- Shopping
- Street Life
- Travel
- Money
- Taxis
- Bicycles
- Buses
- Phones
- Food
- Websites and other helpful resources

Cultural and Historical notes

Macedonian features fairly hot summers, with humidity levels below those of middle America, and comfortably cool temperatures in the evening. One of the most popular cultural activities is sitting in a cafe, enjoying the sun, watching the river flow, and discussing politics or just people-watching. Lake Ohrid is a popular summer getaway and features beaches, hotels and tourist restaurants.

Macedonia has a number of important distinctions within its culture that every Fulbrighter should be aware of. But it also has much in common with the United States and Western Europe. Important cultural factors include the historical influences of various powers over the past centuries (such as the Turks from the Ottoman era), as well as Macedonia's current, post-Yugoslavian status; it used to be a semi-autonomous region within one of the largest countries in Europe (Yugoslavia), but now Macedonia is independent and one of the smallest countries in Europe. To truly understand the sociology, economy and politics of Macedonia, we encourage Fulbrighters to read-up on the history of this unique area. To truly understand the why and how of this country, one must have at least a cursory understanding of this region's role in the Ottoman Empire, the two world wars, the cold war, the breakup of Yugoslavia in the 1990s, and the Albanian insurgency of the early 2000s. It would also be helpful for visitors to have a basic understanding of Orthodox Christianity, Islam, Judaism, and Catholicism, especially as they relate to the Balkans region. Fulbright scholars should also make an effort to understand Macedonia's current relationship with Greece and the associated state of non-recognition on Greece's part of Macedonia's desired official country name, which has led to wider implications for Macedonia with regard to NATO and the European Union memberships. The above areas of concern currently have big picture impacts on the state of Macedonian political, business, travel and education. Nonetheless, Fulbrighters visiting Macedonia will have a very limited role in changing these factors. In the recent months there has been an escalation in ethnic tensions in the country between ethnic Macedonians and ethnic Albanians. On a day to day basis there is not threat or reason to be concerned, however coming to Macedonia it is important to be aware of this ethnic tension.

Personal Interactions and Language

Outside the classroom, Macedonians sometimes tend to ask a fair number of questions when they initially meet Americans. This may include wanting to know where you are from (not just the state, but also the town), what exactly you are doing in Macedonia, how long you've been there thus far, how long

you intend to stay, where you live, who you are travelling with, where you're travelling to, and most of all "how do you like Macedonia?" If Fulbrighters do not necessarily want to answer all these questions, for one reason or another, it behooves them to prepare some answers in advance. Especially when dealing with strangers, one should be prepared to give responses that will help ensure their own security, while not obviously covering something up. For the most part, Macedonia is a fairly non-violent, low crime country, but one can never be too careful, especially when travelling alone.

The fact that Macedonia has relatively small population count, about 2 million people, has impacts on its media, economy and the types of goods available to consumers. With such a small market, television and film production houses have found it not cost effective to dub entertainment media into the Macedonian language, instead opting to leave the native English sound tracks. This is unusual in Europe, as seasoned travelers will know. As a result of being exposed to large amounts of English language media, a large number of Macedonians have fair to very good speaking skills in English, especially in the larger cities such as Skopje. This is especially true for young people, but a good number of the 50 to 60 year-old crowd also have exceptional English language skills. Because so many Macedonians speak English, it can be quite tempting not to learn Macedonian words. However, if Fulbrighters speak American English constantly, it will be instantly obvious to everyone within earshot that they are foreigners but this distinction will more than likely occur even with language. To remedy this potential problem, it is advisable to learn, in advance of landing, some of the most common Macedonian phrases. Fulbright scholars should be equipped with the skills to say hello, goodbye, please, thank you, left, right, forward, how much is this, see you later (or similar sign-off), etc. Language knowledge is not absolutely necessary, but it is one of those things that helps insure security, acts as a social lubricant, and allows Fulbrighters to live and work efficiently. Macedonia also uses the Cyrillic alphabet quite extensively, so it is important to make one's self familiar with these symbols and the associated pronunciations. Fulbrighters should be aware that, ironically, some taxi drivers and many police officers have poor English skills. This lack of English language knowledge can sometimes manifest itself in somewhat surprising outbursts of "no English, no English" on the part police officers; but most others will be open to working out communication in other ways. You should also be aware that depending on what city you are in the main language may be Albanian such as in many cities in Western Macedonian.

University Life and Academics

Be prepared to accept excessive respect from your students and your colleagues. However also Students will truly appreciate every contact you have with them and help that you can offer them. In our experiences some students feel that email is the easiest way to communicate but yet others may never feel comfortable emailing for fear of bothering the professor. Encourage your students to feel free to contact you.

When in the university setting, Fulbright researchers, students and lecturers should know that Macedonians are often-times afraid to ask questions. This is because gaining entrance into and staying enrolled in a good university in Macedonia is very important for students. They must take admissions tests to get into most universities, and professors are known for being somewhat testy, arrogant and quick to pass judgment. As a result, students tread lightly in Macedonia, working hard to stay on the good side of professors and university staff. Another by-product of their being a bit intimidated by professors is that Macedonian university students are, compared to American students, quite hesitant to ask questions in classroom settings. If students are confused or need additional information regarding a homework assignment or lecture, you may find that they would rather guess on the correct answer or even move forward on a large project without getting clarification. I even heard stories about students who would rather flunk a test than ask the professor for clarification or explanation. American lecturers

should make every effort to clearly explain, at the beginning of the semester, that asking questions, in or out of class, is welcome and encouraged and it may be that you need to constantly remind them throughout the semester. I always encouraged students to ask questions when something was not clear, but it's up to American visiting professors to always make sure they give crystal clear explanations regarding homework assignments, what is expected from students, action plans, procedures, and notes. It is a good policy to ask at the end of the lecture or after handing out homework assignments if there are any questions. Be prepared for students to have not done homework or prepared for class, Macedonian is very different in that way.

In the academic realm, Americans may note that Macedonian students and professors do a lot of travelling to conferences, debates, professional seminars, training sessions, NGO meetings, and other events outside the country. These meetings can represent opportunities for Fulbrighters, if they can gain access, to expand their knowledge and see how business is conducted outside the university. Of course, there may be membership restrictions, travel costs or entry fees. On the other hand, Macedonians do deeply value the opinion of Americans, so a Fulbrighter might be able to get in as an observer or guest contributor. But keep in mind most invitations will not be extended automatically. You should ask if you can be a part of an event when you find out about it. For events outside Macedonia, always contact event managers before making hotel and travel reservations.

Business Practices and Networking

Business manners and practices represent another cultural issue that can be somewhat surprising to Americans who are used to a "get it done now" approach. Macedonians do not tend to instinctively have the attention to detail or sense of urgency that many American students and professionals do. If you send an email with three questions on it, you may only get an answer to the first or last question. It is also likely that it may be days or a week before you have a response email. You may also find that phone calls are more effective for communication than email especially if you are working to meet a deadline or arrange a meeting. When trying to arrange a meeting, they may give you the time without noting the place, forcing what can be a somewhat tedious series of back and forth correspondences. Regarding meeting times, it is advisable to schedule them in the afternoon, or at least not too early in the morning. Many Macedonians do not arrive at work until 10 am, so an 8:30 meeting may be met with some objection on their part or a long wait on your part. On the other hand, scheduling a meeting at 4 pm is also ill-advised, as many Macedonians attempt to stop working by 3:00 or 3:30, especially if they do not work for a larger corporation, which most do not. Fulbrighters should note that many Macedonians do not use the "am / pm" system as much as the 24 hour clock system, so 2 pm becomes 14:00. If Americans want to make the most of their Fulbright experience, they need to drive their projects forward with follow-up phone calls, reminder emails and meetings that push processes forward. If a Macedonian student, teacher or business professional says he will do something in three days, it is advisable to call the person on the fourth day to make sure the task was accomplished. Because Fulbrighters only have a limited time "in country" to accomplish their goals and complete their projects, they must lead by example, verify the completion of steps, and not be afraid to coax the process along or remind people of deadlines.

Networking is important in Macedonia, in business, academia, and as relates to government. But networking goes beyond formal conferences, as small get-togethers in cafes, restaurants, and public meeting places are the source for idea generation, forging business partnerships, and collaborations of all types. It is not unusual to be asked to a cafe for a business meeting, instead of meeting at an office. Also, these meetings often occur after 5 pm. But Americans should not fall into the trap of becoming too relaxed and informal in these situations. These informal cafe meetings sometimes serve a

"screening" purpose, so Americans should take care to dress well, speak professionally, and conduct themselves in an educated manner.

It can also be a good idea to get business cards printed. In Skopje, I can recommend "Reprint" and the number is (0) 2 3237 808. You can also use VistaPrint online before you leave the United States. They have free business card offers.

Social Life

Competitiveness among European countries is a long-documented trend, but because so many Macedonians are familiar with American language and culture, energetic Macedonians might also attempt to upstage visiting Fulbrighters from time to time. This is another reason for Fulbrighters to be well-read, well-groomed and maintain positive relationships, all this adds to presenting a positive image as an American Fulbright representative. Additionally, Macedonian social circles are substantially smaller than those of America, so word can spread quickly. If you are an exceptional professional, this is good; if you are not prepared for your Fulbright venture, this dynamic will work against you. Americans should also be careful about what they say regarding their opinion of other people, the Macedonian government, and the university in which they work. This is not because there is any great danger, but it goes back to the fact that this is a small country. If one were to make negative comments to peers or acquaintances in Macedonia, it is possible those comments would be repeated. As a representative of the prestigious Fulbright program, participants should work to protect their personal reputations and the reputation of the Fulbright program and America in general. Many leaders in Macedonia are quite young, so it is not unusual to have coffee with someone who looks less than 35 years old, but has a high-level job in government, academia or business. If Fulbrighters are friendly but professional, knowledgeable yet open to discussions and debates, then they will be welcomed by Macedonian people of all types.

It is possible that you may be invited to birthday parties, picnics, social events and business meetings by Macedonian people. While that can be true for some, it may also be necessary for you to start those relationships and contacts. Macedonian people have a different take on friendships than those of many Americans. They are friendly and kind, but it is harder to form what we might consider friendships. It is in these settings that one gets the true feel for the culture, its people and the real economic and political situation. Fulbrighters in Macedonia should view their academic work as a starting point in their quest for greater knowledge. True understanding of the Macedonian culture, people, history, struggles and successes requires an open mind, open ears, the opening of some books, the opening of the wallet to see the land and travel a bit, and a real willingness to learn.

Dress

Fashion, especially for women, is important in Macedonian culture. Americans should be careful not to dress in jogging pants, sloppy university sweatshirts or pajama outfits in Macedonia. It may seem like a fun and quirky thing to do in Ohio, but it will not go over well in Macedonia. When packing the suitcase, American men should bring at least two sport coats and dress pants, and semi-formal dress shoes that won't hurt the feet if one has to walk a kilometer or two. Women should equip themselves with a couple pantsuit or skirt suit options and semi-formal shoes. Packing is difficult, but bring clothes you are comfortable in and that can be versatile. It is very common for women to wear heels in daily life however we alumni have a mixed opinion of its necessity. We do agree that Macedonians tend to dress up more than in the United States.

American visitors should be prepared to walk quite a bit, so they should make sure shoes are comfortable and durable. When purchasing shoes in Macedonia, one should expect to pay approximately 2,000 - 3,000 dinars for walking shoes. You will want waterproof shoes with good tread.

Housing

In Skopje housing can range from 250 – 350 Euro for a single apartment. In some of the other cities rent will be less. The embassy will provide you with information about apartments. The Public Affairs Section in the embassy is very helpful and efficient. You may want to contact Gazmend at ilazig@state.gov if you have any particular questions.

Most apartments in Macedonia come equipped with at least one air conditioner unit. If Fulbrighters intend to stay through the summer, they should not rent an apartment that does not have an AC unit. Winters in Macedonia can be surprisingly long and cold, especially considering the warmth of the summers. Although substantial snow tends to only fall in the mountainous regions, winter coats are advised from November through April. In Skopje heat in most apartments is provided by radiators, which use city-supplied hot water, in other communities hot water sources are different. In an effort to save municipal money, this hot water may flow only at certain times of the day or may not begin flowing well into the autumn. Consequently, Fulbrighters may want to purchase a small electric room heater for their apartment. If a Fulbrighter needs a heater for their apartment, they should not be afraid to call their landlord or real estate agent. However a warm bottle of water or a blanket may be sufficient.

One alumni experienced an excellent apartment rental company is DomLux, and their website is mydomlux.com. The best agent is a young woman named Aneta. Her email is ane_menoska@yahoo.com. Her mobile phone number is (389) 070 24 64 11. She speaks excellent English and is also a registered translator (Macedonian / English). Furnished apartments are the way to go. It is not worth the money to attempt to furnish the apartment yourself, even if you do save a bit on rent. Some furnished apartments require the renter to put the utilities in his or her name, and this is a mess of red tape that is not recommended.

Housing is easy to find in Bitola. It's important that you have a Macedonian with you when searching for housing.

Shopping

There are several large shopping malls in Skopje. These primarily contain clothing shops, and usually one or two grocery stores. Hardware stores and the like, which would sell heaters, home improvement items, or automotive items, are a bit more rare.

Shopping can be an interesting and fulfilling experience in Macedonia, but it can also be somewhat frustrating. The cost of many goods in Macedonia is quite a bit cheaper than the same goods in America. Although groceries are similarly priced as those in the states, Macedonia has much cheaper prices for basic clothing (non name brand), simple restaurant food and cafe food, taxi rides, haircuts, medicines, and even dental care. "Green Markets" are very popular in Macedonia, and they can be characterized as a mix between a farmers market and a flea market. Since Macedonia has a relatively long growing season, fresh vegetables are in abundance throughout the year; and the best vegetables are found in the green markets however you will want to take advantage of what is in season at the time. Supermarkets actually tend to have sub-standard produce. Green markets also offer simple electronics, clothing of all types, bicycle accessories, kitchen supplies and textiles such as fabrics and rugs. Skopje

has several green markets, and the largest one, the "Bit Pazar," is located in the Old Town section. Green markets are almost universally cheaper than standard stores.

For computer repairs, there is a gentleman named Aleksandar Bogoeski who has a small shop near the Greek Consulate. His number is 070 238 953, and his email is aleksandar.bogoeski@sentinel.mk. There is also an excellent dentist in Skopje, who trained in America and has a very modern office. Her name is Ana Bondaleska, and her mobile number is 07-830-9147.

we took this section out because we felt it "others" those of Muslim faith.

In Bit Pazar in Skopje, there are old and interesting buildings, housing many small shops with high-quality goods. One can purchase fine wool and cashmere fabrics at the Bit Pazar for excellent prices, then have suits made by professional tailors in the old section of town; with the grand total being less than one-quarter the price in America. There are other tailors throughout Macedonia that you can also have clothing made for a much cheaper price.

Shopping in mall stores can be something of an original experience. At some stores in Macedonia, you are confronted by a sales person who asks how they can help you, all before you have had a chance to look around. Clerks then stand less than three feet away from you at all times while you shop, especially in clothing stores or department stores, often instantly rearranging the items you have touched. This can get a bit claustrophobic, so, as hard as it may seem to do at first, it is helpful to either ignore them or use your body language to keep them out of your personal space while you shop. Also, when at the grocery store, customers must bag their own groceries and sometimes grocery bags are not automatically provided. As for personal space, some people may stand closer to you than you are use to in the United States, however if you are in a situation and you feel uncomfortable it is okay to leave situation. In stores and public places, people often reach for items that are in your personal space, sometimes right under your nose. If there is only 6 inches between you and the wall, people will not hesitate to attempt to squeeze through; without saying "excuse me" or any equivalent. This type of behavior manifests itself in restaurants, on sidewalks, and throughout public spaces. The Macedonian word for excuse me is "izvenite" if you say it people will usually jump back, apologize, and conveniently make room for you. It must be noted, however, that these people are not trying to be rude. Macedonians are simply used to living in this shoulder-to-shoulder environment.

Street life

Americans should take extra precautions when on sidewalks and when crossing the street in Skopje and other busy cities in Macedonia. Unpredictable traffic is common on sidewalks as well as the streets. Mopeds are also allowed in some walking areas. More importantly, automobile traffic represents a hazard to those on foot, especially when crossing the street. The "walk" and "don't walk" signals follow a different timing configuration to that of the states; just because the light says "walk" does not necessarily mean no automobiles are heading your way. When pedestrians are crossing the street at designated crosswalks that do not have stoplights, care should be taken to make sure eye contact is made with the drivers of oncoming traffic. Drivers will usually not make any effort to slow down until you are actually in the crosswalk, and then they will slow or stop only long enough for you to clear their bumper. Additionally, Macedonia sometimes employs a complex configuration for turn lanes and merge lanes when two multi-lane streets meet. So when crossing the street always look both ways even though you're on the cross walk and have the green light.

Travel

Traveling to Macedonia you have several options. Skopje's airport has been remodeled and there is now an airport bus between the airport and several locations in the center for 100 denar. You can buy the tickets inside the airport at a desk to the right of the exits, or you can mosey over to the bus and the driver will most likely do it for you. The buses are timed to the flights, and the airport's website and some signs outside will list the schedules. If you take a taxi, expect to pay about 20 euro, or 1200 denar. You can fly into Skopje via other European cities. Some of us also found that it's cheaper to fly into Belgrade or Sofia and then take a bus or train to Skopje.

There are several hotels and hostels that you can stay in when you arrive until you find a place to live. You can find those on hostelbookers.com, hostelworld.com, hostels.com or booking.com.

As for money, you will not be able to exchange to denar until you are in country. There is an ATM at the airport that you can use to get the currency and if you arrive during the day, there is an exchange office in the airport.

Money

As stated above, you will not be able to exchange to denar until you are in country. There are ATMs available in all cities around Macedonia. We recommend you having a reliable debit card that you can use. We also recommend being sure your bank is aware of your travels so that you are assured a working card. If your card is due to expire while you are away, get a new card before you leave because some banks will not ship internationally. Another piece of advice would be to not use Chase Bank. Check with your bank before coming to see what fees there are. Fulbrighters who have lived here and had that as their bank have had many problems and high ATM fees. It is also our recommendation that you also bring with you a credit card to use if needed while you are in Macedonia.

Taxis

For Fulbrighters without a car in Macedonia, taxis are usually the dominant source of transportation. As far as the taxi service is concerned we had the best experience with Lotus taxis. You can find them on line at www.lotustransport.com -- you can make reservations in advance and they will pick you up at the airport. Their cars are clean and new, and the drivers are almost always very friendly and speak some level of English. The Lotus number is (389) 02 151 57. You will also receive a list from the Embassy when you arrive of other taxi companies in Skopje.

As of June 2011, the base price for a taxi ride is 40-44 denar, and the meter goes up with distance and with time. Addresses are usually not helpful to give. It's better to tell the driver the name of the place where you're going based on landmarks such as a nearby store or cafes. For example, you can just tell the driver to take you to the German Embassy, Lyra Restaurant, the train station, etc. If your actual destination is in the area, you can walk from there or give further directions after you get to the landmark.

Bicycles

Despite the harried characteristics of traffic, having a bicycle in Skopje can be very helpful. With most Fulbrighters not having a car while in Macedonia, walking can get a bit tedious and taking a taxi can get a bit expensive. A bicycle is a nice compromise, since it allows one to travel faster, take advantage of shortcuts such as small alleys and building arches, bypass clogged automobile traffic, and do it all without the hassle of wondering if you have 120 denar for the next taxi ride. Plus, a bicycle gives one a certain freedom to explore the surroundings more extensively. In Skopje, there is an excellent paved path running along the Vardar River for several kilometers in each direction, so getting a workout can be

done via rollerblade, bike, or jog. Bicycle prices start at approximately 6,000 denars, which represents approximately 140 USD (as of June 2011). There are new machines in Skopje where you can rent bicycles as well.

Buses

The buses are not a bad way to go in either. Each ride is about 30 denars in Skopje. I took a bus from the city center all the way to the top of the local mountain for 30 denars each way. If travelling to other cities within Macedonia, such as Ohrid or Bitola, taking a bus is a good option. Bus tickets can be purchased at the Skopje Train/Bus Station. To travel from Skopje to Ohrid for one person, one way, is about 750 dinar (under 20 USD). At the train/bus station, one can also find several private bus companies that have rides to Turkey, Italy, Greece, Serbia, Croatia, and other European countries. Some taxi drivers offer long distance services. One is a gentleman by the name of Lubco, and he has done work for US-AID and other embassies in Skopje. He takes travelers to Kosovo, Albania, and other destinations where the client prefers an escort who knows the territory. His mobile phone number is (389) 070-037-0581.

Phones

Dialing phone numbers in Macedonia can be a bit tricky. Land lines have a 02 as a prefix and mobile phones have a 07 as a prefix, but when people give out their number they do not always include the prefix, so ask if the number is for a landline or mobile phone. It is advisable for every Fulbrighter to make the investment in a mobile phone as soon as they arrive Macedonia. A mobile phone can make your life much easier, and it acts as a safety net if you get stranded or have an emergency situation. If your American cell services has GSM or you have an unlocked quadband GSM phone or any European bandwidth phone, you can bring that with you to use. It is possible for you to call your cell phone company and have them unlock your phone or explain to you how to unlock your phone on your own.

Fulbrighters should have on speed-dial the number to the embassy, the cell phone number to a person at the embassy, and the number of their landlord; obviously, in addition to personal, business and academic contacts. There are a number of different cell phone companies in Macedonia, the most commonly used companies are T-Mobile, and VIP. No contracts are required, and you can just prepay a set amount, then just use the phone until the credits are exhausted. You can refill the phone with credits at any time and in many locations such as kiosks. American mobile phones do work in Macedonia, but the charges are obviously very high.

If Fulbrighters wish to call back to the US from Macedonia, there are several ways that we have found to be effective:

One would be purchasing a device called a Magic Jack before they leave America. The Magic Jack is available at Radio Shack stores for less than 50 USD, which includes the first year of service. The device plugs into a computer via a USB port and uses Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP) technology. Register the Magic Jack and get it up and running before you leave the states. When registering the device, the user will receive a phone number which is tied to the area where the device is register. For example, if you register the Magic Jack in Chicago, you will receive a Chicago-area number for the Magic Jack. You can then use the device anywhere in the world, so when you call back to Chicago from Macedonia, it is like making a local call. The device also includes voice mail service.

Another option is using Google Voice. You can sign up for a google voice account while in the US through a gmail account it must be done IN THE USA. You choose a local US telephone number that ties to your

US based phone number. When you sign up you select the google voice number to be the primary number, and even if you deactivate your US phone, the service will continue to work. Currently it is completely free to use google voice to call the US or for people in the US to call you as well as to send and receive text messages. It may be that the service will change and no longer be free, but it is still a cheap and easy way to call home.

Another option is to use Skype. You can purchase a phone number through Skpye and use that as a phone service. You can also use Skype as a free way to video chat with people.

Food

There are many great restaurants around Skopje. Many of these are right around the center of Skopje in the square. Many of the restaurants offer Wi-Fi. Some places that are easy to find and popular would include: Anya's on the Vardar River, Gino's on the second level of the GTC shopping center in the City Center, The Irish Pub along the Vardar, La Bodegita del Medio (Cuban) along the Vardar and Aladin's also on the second level of the GTC shopping center. The prices around Skopje vary you can usually look at a menu before sitting down to be sure it is what you want.

Outside of Skopje restaurant prices tend to be cheaper. There are many delicious places you will find as you travel throughout Macedonia.

Websites and other helpful resources

A good starting guide about Macedonia is the Bradt guide by Thammy Evans. You can find it at http://books.google.com/books?id=YVPshBLnW_cC&pg=PA73&lpg=PA73&dq#v=onepage&q&f=false. You may want to buy the guide at Amazon -- less than \$20 new. The guide gives you updated information about Macedonia. Her coverage of historical and political facts is debatable since there are several different ways that history is being interpreted in the region and dependent on whom you ask. However her description of the country, services and people in general is very good. Celebrations of family saints, birthdays and name days are very common and you can expect to be invited to some of them. Generally you can bring flowers and/or wine to the hosts.

Macedonian Information Agency: <http://www.mia.com.mk>

Balkan Insight: <http://www.balkaninsight.com>

This site contains a list of all the non-profits in Macedonia: <http://www.skopjediem.com/>

Excellent International News Source: <http://www.eurasiareview.com/>

Central and Eastern European Online Library: <http://www.ceeol.com/>

Global Voices Online gives news about any country: <http://globalvoicesonline.org/>

Pazar 3 is like the Craigslist of Macedonia: <http://www.pazar3.mk/>

Apartment Rental Company: <http://www.dzingoapartments.com.mk/>

MK Tourism Site: <http://www.exploringmacedonia.com/>

MK News Site: <http://www.makfax.com.mk/>

Balkan News Site: <http://www.balkananalysis.com/>

Southeast European Times – www.setimes.com

Restaurant Guides- www.restorani.com.mk

Business Guides – www.zk.com.mk

You may want to look at some of the Macedonian newspapers online. If you use Google Chrome it will translate the articles for you -- not perfectly but it will be understandable. The following are some of the sites:

<http://www.dnevnik.com.mk/>
<http://www.novamakedonija.com.mk/>
<http://www.utrinski.com.mk/>
<http://www.vreme.com.mk>
<http://alsat-m.tv/>
<http://www.koha.mk/>
<http://www.kanal5.com.mk/>